

# 'Cabaret School Of Negro Writers Does Not Represent One-Tenth Of Race

## Dr. Hubert H. Harrison Takes Shot At 'Midnight Maniacs From Greenwich Village' In Article

"Opportunity Still Open For True Creative Art From Younger Generation," Says Noted Race Critic

BY DR. HUBERT H. HARRISON  
(Dr. Harrison is lecturer for the New York City Board of Education.)

NEW YORK, May 26.—As late as ten years ago the word cabaret was regarded among us as merely a Frenchified term for a "dive" and the thing itself was treated accordingly. No respectable young woman would let herself be found in one—even with an escort. But things have changed since then, and now our most respectable "advancement" organizations hold their "benefits" and other entertainments in these places. Since no change has come over the character of the cabarets during the past decade we are forced to look for the explanation in some change in the attitude of society—colored and white—toward the cabaret itself and what goes on there. And at the very outset we are faced with the significant fact that Negro society, especially in its upper reaches, takes its standards of value ready-made from white society whose changes of taste, amusements and ideals will be found reflected more or less faithfully in the practices of Negro people. When we consider the historical circumstances under which Negroes developed in America such a relationship seems perfectly natural in itself. But some of its by-products are rather bizarre. Take this matter of the cabaret, for instance.

The great city, whether it be New York, Chicago or St. Louis, sucks into its huge maw most of the available energies of the country areas, dominates the life of the nation and fixes, sometimes arbitrarily, the cultural standards for all the people. The products of "Tin-Pan-Alley" are rapidly diffused over the hamlets of the far South and the ranches of the "wild" West—thanks to the modern means of rapid communication. To the printed copies of song hits, the traveling vaudeville and the phonograph records, we have recently added radio broadcasting; so that the "sweet magnolias" "ole black mammy" "brown-skin baby" and "hot mama" of a score of Jew boys in "the

## \$5,000 For Child Welfare Offered by Julius Rosenwald

RALEIGH, N. C., May 26.—(By A. N. P.)—Julius Rosenwald of Chicago has offered \$5,000 to the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare, to be used in making a study of child welfare among Negroes, as a result of his interest in the work which the board has been doing for Negroes. The purpose of the study will be to find out what becomes of defective, dependent, and delinquent Negro children in North Carolina. Some of the children are being cared for by various institutions.

cabaret, of course, was the earliest and easiest point of contact for these discoverers of "The New Negro." There they could find not only a great variety of "types" as conceived by them; but, under the influence of post-war gin and Volstead whisky, they could reveal in an "atmosphere" which was to them "realistic" and realistic of the "genuine" Negro.

As soon as the resultant "stunt" began to sell, "the guardians of the gate," the colored cognoscenti, Harlem's high intelligentsia, flocked to the new centers of cultural exposition like a swarm of bees, and, in new that they might "get in on the graft" and sell their "stunt" downtown, they laid themselves out to attain that imitation which is the most fruitful form of flattery. Their doors were opened to the official expositors, they competed for the honor of entertaining them and shepherded their guests about Harlem with the air of exclusive proprietors. But having attached themselves to the new cultural apostles in the capacity of kite-tails, they had to follow where these led. Cabaret parties became the order of the night, and at the cabaret the colored cognoscenti soon learned to see with the eyes of the angels whom they were entertaining—not entirely unaware.

The grotesque antics of bibulous boons furnished the esthetic principles upon which a "new" art for the Negro was predicted. The range of their application reached from portrait painting and magazine illustrations to fiction and poetry.

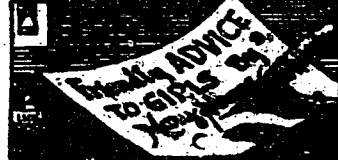
Oddly enough, this didn't "catch on" in the Negro newspapers. But the larger "race" magazines, deriving their prestige wholly or in part from the white world, cheerfully transformed themselves into official vehicles for the exposition of these new principles. Grotesque caricatures of the Negro appeared monthly on their covers and in their pages.

Young "poets"—extremely young—were seduced by the opportunity for self-advertising into contributing alleged poems in which many lines consisted of one word each, and rhythm, cadence and ideas were conspicuous by their absence. The riot was on. In prose, genuine masters like John Mathis and local critics like Frank Horne were swamped by the turrid tide of trumpery pish-posh and could hardly be heard for the babel of callow cackling. Many who began with sound artistic impulses but weak wills, like Zora Neale Hurstone and Helene Johnson were soon swimming with the tide of tenth-rate marketeers, nibbling at the flesh-pots of Egypt, and headed for oblivion. Meanwhile the blowers of the ebony flutes and tawny tin-trumpets are happy for the moment in their own fools' paradise constructed of such literary materials as have floated up out of the cabaret into the cloudy culture in which they have their being.

The Cabaret School of Negro literature is apt to be a bit brash in its handling of language, and already it has acquired some reputation for coarse vulgarity and indelicate expression. This, too, is a trait imitated from its Greenwich Village godfathers. Both sets, like Billy Sunday, often mistake the language of the gutter for the language of the common people and, since "spice" rhymes with "nice," they sometimes think that with a dash of nifty when they are only being nasty. This would be only a venial error if it were not for the fact that already a raft of vulgar and suggestive songs and indecent vaudeville acts are tending to identify Negroes with baseness and giving the whole race a bad name. It is a poor defense to hide behind the claim of representing the humble elements of society. For, in the first place, the real representation of these elements among us is still left to white writers who attempt it with serious seriousness. O'Neill, Paul Green, Mrs. Peterkin and DuBois Heyward, or humorously—like Octavus Roy Cohen. And in the next place, the outstanding literary figures that have come up from these elements—like Bunyan, Ekins, Gerald Massey, Dunbar and McKay—have not been notorious for vulgarity of that, or any other sort. But it well illustrates the ancient adage that "evil communications corrupt good manners."

On the whole, then, the influence of the cabaret, whether direct or indirect, has not been quite wholesome for Negro literature. Nine-tenths of Negro life is still unrepresented by the artists of the Cabaret School, still waiting for those who have gumption and courage enough to eschew the natty-pammy colored Brahmins and the seditions of the midnight maniacs from downtown. The opportunity, thank goodness, is still open for true creative artists from the younger generation of Negroes.

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Getting up nights, pains in back, burning sensation and other troubles caused by kidney or bladder trouble. Gland vanishes quickly. Rudolph's Prostate, new scientific treatment, produced such amazing results that the W. B. Way Company, 9 West-over Arcade, Kansas City, Mo., have made it possible for every sufferer to get the benefits that this wonderful treatment may give them. Any man or woman suffering should consider it first duty to write for treatment at once.



Note to readers—Numerous letters are received asking for personal advice, but with no stamp enclosed. Many of these letters require several letters to others, and it is impossible to answer them. Again, if you send a stamp in a later letter, it requires much time to go through hundreds of letters to know what it was you wanted in the first place. So repeat your request with the stamp, and a holding back letters that deal only with a desire for matrimony as these columns were designed to help the troubled and not promote it. Also, that is a very complicated matter and requires time and much bookkeeping to conduct. So please do not expect too much along this line. It would take every waking minute to meet the demands made upon this column in this one particular.

Lastly, mail is delayed answering as it goes to the central office and is then relayed to the publisher and is one week ahead of publication in the office. This causes a seeming neglect of your inquiries which is unavoidable.

Let me hear from you more along lines of human problems and troubles.

Yours for happiness,  
M. STRONG.

Dear Mrs. Strong:

I have been married six years and we both love each other, but we can't stay together. My husband tells me about his girls, how much money they give him and everything. I'm twenty-seven and have been working ever since I have been old enough. My husband left last week and said he wasn't coming back until I decided to give him my money. He says he loves me and I love him, but he won't do anything for me and tells me to court and he will court, but I don't believe I'm justified in courting before I get a divorce. He doesn't want to get a divorce, he comes home about two nights a week.

Last night he carried his girl to a party. I went alone and he didn't have much to say to me, he slighted me and walked off and left me standing alone. Please tell me what to do.

H. E. J.

Dear H. E. J.:  
Some truths are hard to bear, but like bitter medicine, they must be taken. The feeling your husband has for you is not love as I interpret it. You are young enough to break with your old life and start again. When one is mature and has children, there is need of pause before making drastic changes in one's life.

I cannot see that happiness can possibly come to you from this connection. True love cherishes, protects and holds singly for its own. With you this is not so. I believe you love your husband, but it is yours to learn the bitter lesson of renunciation. No good woman should make of herself a doorman. Get up from the ground and girl your pride around you. There's always some one to cherish and care for women like you.

One can feel your femininity, your power to trust and love. Think better of yourself, take him at his word and get a divorce. However, you are right about divorce—that will be necessary. The next time you come to the great decision—look well before you leap.  
Be courageous, strong and hope.  
M. S.

Dear Mrs. Strong:

I am a man thirty years old. Have been a very prosperous farmer, but left the farm and came to the city. I made the mistake of investing in poor stock which has got me into this very disagreeable position. I had a wonderful business, but now I have only a lonely heart. I would be grateful if I could write my joys and sorrows to someone.

Sincerely,  
I. R.

Dear I. R.:

One rarely thinks of a farmer as being in prison. Folks who till the soil are usually rugged and honest. Therefore my immediate feeling is that you were a victim of city sharpers and untoward circumstances. I know that some big open hearted girl will be glad to cheer some of your lonely hours.

Yours,  
M. S.

Dear T. B. A.:

Oscar Wilde said: "It is always twilight in one's cell." With the very atmosphere of twilight one is ushered toward reflection, introspection and often regret and remorse.

It is natural that you would reach outward toward the sunlight and vigorous life. There are many souls who would be glad to share their sunlight with you. Many who also carry burdens, but yet feel happier and lighter of heart when they feel that they have helped another bear a heavier cross along the road of Calvary.

The world is full of kindly souls. Some one will write to you I know.

Sincerely,  
M. S.



## Prepare for the Holiday

**Sandwich Needs**  
Potted Meats . . . 3 cans 25c | Chipped Beef 2 glasses 25c  
Rajah Sandwich Spread 25c | Mayonnaise . . . 19c  
Peanut Butter . . . 21c | Wax Paper . . . package 7c

**Cheese** fancy full cream lb. 27¢  
**Bread** Dairy-Maid double loaf makes fine sandwiches 10¢  
**Butter** Brook's Pride Creamery parchment wrapped roll lb. 47¢  
The most popular butter—the biggest seller

**PICKLES**  
no picnic is complete without them  
Sweet very delicious . . . qts. 29c | Dill meat brand . . . pts. 19c  
Sweet Mixed . . . 2 bts. 25c | Old Fashioned Heinz bot. 23c  
India Relish . . . 17c | Olives plain or stuffed 2 bts. 25c

Makes delicious potato salad for the picnic  
**New Potatoes** ½ pk. 40¢  
**Fresh Eggs** served hard boiled, deviled or cut in salads doz. 28¢

**BEVERAGES** these refreshing beverages will quench your thirst.  
Gingerale . . . 10c and 15c  
Notox . . . 3 bts. 28c  
Root Beer Tech . . . 3 bts. 28c  
Grape Juice . . . 17c and 30c  
Tea orange pekoe . . . ½ lb. pkg. 33c

**Weekly Specials**  
**Bananas** the best fruit for the picnic 3 lb. 19¢  
**Lemons** juicy, makes refreshing lemonade doz. 23¢  
**Milk** Whitehouse 6 cans 55¢  
**Iona** Peas · Corn · Tomatoes 6 cans 49¢

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**25th Inf. Marathoners Defeat Indian Team**  
PHOENIX, Ariz., May 26.—(By P. C. N. B.)—With a seven man running aggregation of the 25th Infantry, U. S. A., from Nogales, Ariz., the five mile marathon event was won recently at the Greenway field meet here, defeating the much touted team from the Indian school.

**Boxing Ban Will Be Enforced In Honolulu**  
LOS ANGELES, Cal., May 26.—(By A. N. P.)—A wire to A. N. P. headquarters states that the federal laws against boxing in Honolulu will be rigidly enforced. Boxing has been in operation under the club membership system.

**"Appearances" Is In Last Performance**  
LOS ANGELES, Cal., May 26.—(By P. C. N. B.)—Garland Anderson's "Appearances" will leave the "Playhouse," where it had a two-week run, making a total of five weeks in Los Angeles. The cast will move on to San Francisco, according to an announcement made by Mr. Anderson.

**WHAT WILL YOUR SON DO?**  
When your Son or your Daughter comes out of School this year or next, what kind of employment will they find? Can they clerk in a department store? Can they get a job in an insurance company? They can if you take a policy in a Life Insurance Company owned and operated by Colored People and help to build it up. With every policy you get, in addition to every protection that other companies give, the chance of a job for your son or your daughter. You are building opportunities for your children and yourself when you insure in

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**7 Baker Brothers**  
Pittsburgh's Wonder Bakers



Keeps the Bathroom Glistening White

KIDNEY, BLADDER, TRICOLE  
Getting up nights, pains in back, burning sensation and other troubles caused by kidney or bladder trouble. Gland vanishes quickly. Rudolph's Prostate, new scientific treatment, produced such amazing results that the W. B. Way Company, 9 West-over Arcade, Kansas City, Mo., have made it possible for every sufferer to get the benefits that this wonderful treatment may give them. Any man or woman suffering should consider it first duty to write for treatment at once.